

**Committee Member Inquiries**  
**FCSD Budget Committee**  
**2021-2022**

- Could you provide me (us) with enrollment numbers for each grade level (and subject for 7-12) as well as the number of teachers at each grade level and subject? If you're planning on providing that information to us for a future meeting, then I can wait for the data.
  - We will be providing the enrollment number (district, school, grade level) and staffing information at the next meeting. We can discuss the transportation review at a future meeting. I believe full implementation of the Transfinder program will result in efficiencies as we are seeing with this second semester shift.
- The last time I was on the budget committee there was discussion about the transportation contract with Golden Sun. The questions posed were whether a study had been done to determine if contracting out transportation was less expensive than the district providing its own transportation and if the transportation contract had been put out to bid. I think all of the other districts in Oswego County provide their own transportation so I'm wondering if you have any information on their transportation costs compared to our contract with Golden Sun. Again, if this information will be forthcoming for an upcoming meeting, I can wait on this request.
  - We can discuss the transportation review at a future meeting. I believe full implementation of the Transfinder program will result in efficiencies as we are seeing with this second semester shift.
- It was discussed that 75% of the budget goes towards personnel. Does that include both salaries and fringe benefits? Where does FCSD's percentage match up in comparison to other school districts in the area and/or NYS?
  - Our District's current budget of \$73,777,000 is 68.8% salaries and benefits. Salaries and Benefits are included in each component of the 3-Part Budget. Approximately 75.7% of the overall Budget is directed towards the Programs Component, 14% Capital Component (Facilities/Operations/Debt Payments), and 10.3% Administrative Component (District & School Level Administration).

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- I understand this budget year's breakdown may be a little different with NYS relying on a "bailout" from the Feds but typically what is the breakdown of where funds come from (local, state, federal)? It sounds like the majority comes from NYS but I am curious about the breakdown. Do monies that come from the federal government go directly to school districts or does that money go to the State and they allocate the federal funds?
  - Yes. Revenues are generated from 3 primary areas: State Aid (68.2%); Local Tax Levy (29.3%); and Other (2.5%). The figures are from the 2020-21 Budget Brochure. Federal Stimulus Funds go to the state for distribution. **Federal** education **funding** is distributed to states and **school districts** through a variety of formula and competitive grant programs. While the **federal** government contributes about 12 percent of direct **funding** for elementary and secondary **schools** nationally, the amount varies considerably from state to state.
- I sense there is not a great deal of flexibility with the school budget but, say there is some sort of way to increase federal funds, is there wiggle room where local and state money can be stretched to go farther in other areas? I say this because Fulton is somewhat more socioeconomically disadvantaged than other communities in Central New York which leads me to believe we may have increased access to federal money.
  - The short answer is yes. However, you have to be extremely mindful of parameters associated with the funds. Our combined wealth ratio is one of the lowest in the region and there are some benefits. However, the formula distribution does not always result in the proportional amount. For example, the Campaign for Fiscal Equity case result indicates the State Aid formulas do not provide adequate funding. Full funding of the New York State Formula for the FCSD would be approximately \$7,500,000 additional in Foundation Aid (report found on a report from the NYS Council of School Superintendent, January 2020).
- Is there some sort of formula that determines an approximate dollar figure per student? I ask this because if I am correct, I believe I heard Mr. Pulvino say the district may have as many as 500 less students now than it did several years ago.

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If we were approximately \$5,000 (complete random guess) per student in the past where is that number today? Has it stayed consistent? Is there a standard or benchmark for what that number should even be in the public school system?

- The report that was presented to the Board of Education on February 9, 2021 provides a longitudinal depiction comparing the FCSD with Similar High Needs Districts, and All New York State Schools. The demographic clearly demonstrates we spend less per pupil than each of the comparison groups. Our expenditures are based on needs and revenues.
- Has the increase of more students getting free and reduced lunch been due to Fulton being a part of the program where all students in the district are able to get free lunch? Also is the increased dependency of students need more free and reduced lunch a concern for the district once the free lunch program ends? Example my children make use of the free lunch program being offered to every student but would not be eligible for free lunch without the program. They would then bring their own lunch in without the program being in place.
  - The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a non-pricing meal service option for schools and school districts in low-income areas. CEP allows the nation's highest poverty schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications. Instead, schools that adopt CEP are reimbursed using a formula based on the percentage of students categorically eligible for free meals based on their participation in other specific means-tested programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The FCSD qualifies for the program based on our percentages of free/reduced students. The program has been very positive financially as well as providing a significantly higher number of meals. The program is approved for four years and hopefully will renew. You can move back into traditional programming at any time. We would be notified in advance if the program were not to renew and we would have to revert back to the traditional program. However, many districts nationally are participating in the program which would impact perhaps millions of students which places significant pressures on maintaining the program.